United Nations A/61/PV.55

General Assembly

Sixty-first session

Official Records

55th plenary meeting
Thursday, 16 November 2006, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Ms. Al-Khalifa ..... (Bahrain)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Agenda item 106 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(h) Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit

Note by the Secretary-General (A/61/109)

The President: As indicated in document A/61/109, the General Assembly is required, during the sixty-first session, to appoint five members to fill the vacancies in the Joint Inspection Unit that will arise from the expiration of the term of office, on 31 December 2007, of Mr. Even Fontaine Ortiz of Cuba, Mr. Tang Guanging of China, Mr. Victor Vislykh of the Russian Federation, Ms. Deborah Wynes of the United States of America and Mr. Muhammad Yussuf of the United Republic of Tanzania.

As is also indicated in document A/61/109, in accordance with article 3, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, the President of the General Assembly shall consult with Member States to draw up a list of countries — in this case, five countries — that would be requested to propose a candidate for appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit.

After holding the necessary consultations with the regional groups, I should like to communicate to the Assembly the following information that I have received from the Chairmen of the regional groups.

For the single seat from among the Group of African States, there are three candidates, namely, Egypt, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

For the single seat from among the Group of Asian States, the Group has endorsed China.

For the single seat from among the Group of Eastern European States, the group has endorsed the Russian Federation.

For the single seat from among the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Group has endorsed Cuba.

For the single seat from among the Group of Western European and other States, the Group has endorsed the United States of America.

As the Groups of Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States have each endorsed one candidate for one vacancy — namely, China, the Russian Federation, Cuba and the United States of America, respectively — those four countries will be requested to propose a candidate each for appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit.

Since there are three candidacies from among the African States for one vacancy, I should like, in accordance with past practice, to consult with Member States through the procedure of holding an advisory vote by secret ballot to select one country from among the African States to be requested to propose a candidate for appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit.

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Although that advisory vote would not be an election, we would follow the rules of procedure of the Assembly governing elections. If there is no objection, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with existing practice, the country receiving the greatest number of votes, and not less than a majority of the votes of those present and voting, shall be the country selected to propose a candidate for appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit.

May I also take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In the case of a tie vote, there will be a restricted ballot, limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: May I remind members that the Assembly is not appointing members to the Joint Inspection Unit at this time. It is only selecting one country, which will be requested to propose a candidate. Therefore, only the name of a country, and not the name of an individual, should appear on the ballot paper.

I should now like to repeat the names of the three countries from among the African States that wish to propose a candidate: Egypt, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

I should furthermore like to point out that, from among the African States, Senegal already has a national serving on the Joint Inspection Unit. The name of that State should therefore not appear on ballot papers.

The Assembly will now proceed to the selection of one country from among the African States that will be requested to propose a candidate to fill the vacancy in the Joint Inspection Unit.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Ballot papers will now be distributed. May I request representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the one State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers containing more than one name will be declared invalid. If a ballot paper contains the name of a Member State that does not belong to the region, that ballot paper will be declared invalid. Ballot papers bearing the name of an individual will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President Ms. Wiesinger (Austria), Ms. Salayeva (Azerbaijan), Mr. Camara (Guinea), Ms. Romulus (Haiti), and Mr. Adiya (Mongolia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 3.35 p.m. and resumed at 4 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A – African States

Number of ballot papers:	165
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	164
Abstentions:	0
Number of members present and voting:	164
Required simple majority of members present and voting:	83
Number of votes obtained:	
Egypt	85
United Republic of Tanzania	73
Sudan	6

The President: Having obtained the required majority and the greatest number of votes, I declare that Egypt will be the country selected to propose a candidate for appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit.

I thank members for their advice, and the tellers for their assistance.

In accordance with article 3, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, China, Cuba, Egypt, the Russian Federation and the United States of America will be requested to submit the names of

candidates and the curricula vitae highlighting the candidates' relevant qualifications for the tasks ahead.

I would like to remind members that, in accordance with resolution 59/267, of 23 December 2004, candidates should have experience in at least on of the following fields: oversight, audit, inspection, investigation, evaluation, finance, project evaluation, programme evaluation, human resources management, management, public administration, monitoring and/or programme performance, as well as knowledge of the United Nations system and its role in international relations.

After holding the appropriate consultations described in article 3, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, including consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the President of the General Assembly will propose the names of the candidates to the Assembly for appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit.

We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 106.

Programme of work

The President: I would like to inform members that, as its first item on Monday, 20 November 2006, the Assembly will resume its consideration of agenda item 74, entitled "Report of the International Criminal Court", to take action on draft resolution A/61/L.21.

As the second item, the Assembly will consider, in a joint debate, agenda item 47, entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields", agenda item 112, entitled, "Strengthening of the United Nations system", agenda item 113, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit", and agenda item 149, entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals". In connection with agenda items 47 and 113, the Assembly will also consider draft resolution A/61/L.24.

As the third item, the Assembly will consider agenda item 150, entitled "International Year of Reconciliation, 2009", and take action on draft resolution A/61/L.22.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.